

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS STATE 056202

USEEC

FOLLOWING REPEAT LISBON 1536, SENT SECSTATE, INFO USDOC WASHDC
01 MARCH:

QUOTE UNCLAS LISBON 1536

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PO

SUBJ: US KRAFTLINER EXPORTS TO EUROPEAN MARKETS

1. MFA ON FEBRUARY 22 GAVE EMBASSY A MEMORANDUM EXPRESSING GOP CONCERN OVER THE LOW PRICES OF US KRAFTLINER EXPORTS IN EUROPEAN MARKETS. MEMORANDUM IMPLIES THAT PORTUGUESE EXPORTERS OF KRAFTLINER ARE LOSING MARKETS IN EUROPE AS A RESULT OF ABNORMALLY LOW PRICES OFFERED BY US EXPORTERS.

2. MEMO STATES: 1) PORTUGUESE, FRENCH AND FINNISH KRAFTLINER MANUFACTURERS POINTED OUT TO THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS LAST SPRING THAT US PRICES IN EUROPEAN MARKETS DID NOT REFLECT US-EUROPE TRANSPORT COSTS; 2) FRENCH THEN REPORTEDLY REQUESTED EC TO INSTITUTE AN ANTI-DUMPING ACTION; 3) FOREGOING MEASURES CAUSED US EXPORTERS TO RAISE PRICES
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BY ABOUT 10 PER, FROM \$240 TO \$270/TON; 4) SITUATION WORSENEED LAST AUTMUMN, WHEN US PRICES FELL TO \$250, AND IN SOME MARKETS TO \$225/TON; 5) DEVALUATION OF SWEDISH CROWN HAS ENABLED SCANDINAVIAN MANUFACURERS TO MEET US COMPETITION.

3. MFS ASKS THAT EMBASSY INFORM WASHINGTON AGENCIES OF SERIOUS LOSSES BEING CAUSED TO PORTUGUESE KRAFTLINER EXPORTERS. INFORMAL

EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF MEMO BEING POUCHED SEPARATELY. EMBASSY
WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER GUIDANCE DEPT. CAN PROVIDE. OKUN
UNQUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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